

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A folded blank for the manufacture of a rigid packet ~~(2)~~, obtainable from a flat diecut blank ~~(3)~~ presenting a first panel ~~(6)~~ and a second panel ~~(8)~~ coinciding respectively with the front ~~(7)~~ and the back ~~(9)~~ of the packet ~~(2)~~, pairs of lateral panels ~~(10, 11, 30)~~ hingedly attached respectively to the first and second panels ~~(6, 8)~~ and establishing the flanks ~~(60)~~ of the packet ~~(2)~~, and end panels ~~(12, 14)~~ establishing the top ~~end face~~ ~~end face~~ ~~(13)~~ and the bottom end face ~~(15)~~ of the packet ~~(2)~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the flat diecut blank ~~(3)~~ is bent double along at least one fold line ~~(5)~~ to create a first part ~~(16)~~ and a second part ~~(17)~~ flattened one against the other in such a manner that the folded blank ~~(1)~~ presents a collapsed configuration initially; wherein ~~in that~~ each of the lateral panels ~~(10, 11, 30)~~ associated with one of the two parts ~~(16, 17)~~ of the blank presents a preferential fold line ~~(25)~~ delimiting a first inner lateral portion ~~(26)~~ and a second outer lateral portion ~~(27)~~, positioned such that the second outer portions ~~(27)~~ can be bent along the preferential fold line ~~(25)~~ and at least one portion ~~(27)~~ of one part ~~(16, 17)~~ offered to the corresponding lateral panel ~~(11, 10)~~ of the other part ~~(16, 17)~~ so that when the folded blank ~~(1)~~ is erected to form the packet ~~(2)~~, the corresponding lateral panel ~~(11, 10)~~ will overlap and cover the preferential fold line ~~(25)~~; and wherein said preferential fold line coincides with an axis of symmetry of the lateral panel.

2. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 1, wherein the second outer portion ~~(27)~~ of a lateral panel ~~(10, 11)~~ presented by one part ~~(17, 16)~~ of the blank

~~(1)~~, offered to the panel ~~(10, 11)~~ that will ultimately overlap the preferential fold line ~~(25)~~, is fastened permanently to the opposite part ~~(16, 17)~~ of the blank.

3. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 2, wherein the second outer portion ~~(27)~~ is fastened permanently to the corresponding lateral panel ~~(10, 11)~~ presented by the opposite part ~~(16, 17)~~ of the blank.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 1~~claim 4~~, wherein the second outer portions ~~(27)~~ of each lateral portion are substantially flattened against the respective first inner portions ~~(26)~~ when the blank is in the initially collapsed configuration.

6. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 5, referable to a predominating axis ~~(4)~~ disposed transversely to a predominating axis ~~(4')~~ of the flat diecut blank ~~(3)~~ and extending parallel to the fold line ~~(5)~~ of the ~~selfsame blank (3)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 6, wherein the preferential fold line ~~(25)~~ of the lateral panel ~~(10, 11, 30)~~ coincides with the fold line ~~(5)~~ of the flat blank ~~(3)~~, and the lateral panel ~~(30)~~ is hinged on opposite sides of the preferential fold line ~~(25)~~ to the first panel ~~(6)~~ and the second panel ~~(8)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 5, referable to a predominating axis ~~(4)~~ coinciding with a predominating axis ~~(4)~~ of the flat diecut blank ~~(3)~~ and extending transversely to the fold line ~~(5)~~ of the ~~selfsame~~ blank ~~(3)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 8, wherein the fold line ~~(5)~~ is applied to an end panel ~~(14)~~ hinged on opposite sides of the ~~selfsame~~ fold line ~~(5)~~ to the first panel ~~(6)~~ and the second panel ~~(8)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 9, wherein the second outer portions ~~(27)~~ of the lateral panels ~~(11)~~ associated with the second panel ~~(8)~~ are positioned such that when the folded blank ~~(1)~~ is erected to form the packet ~~(2)~~, each lateral panel ~~(10)~~ associated with the first panel ~~(6)~~ will overlap the corresponding preferential fold line ~~(25)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 9, wherein the second outer portions ~~(27)~~ of the lateral panels ~~(10)~~ associated with the first panel ~~(6)~~ are positioned such that when the folded blank ~~(1)~~ is erected to form the packet ~~(2)~~, each lateral panel ~~(11)~~ associated with the second panel ~~(8)~~ will overlap the corresponding preferential fold line ~~(25)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 11, comprising a plurality of first crease lines ~~(20, 24)~~ functioning as hinges between the lateral panels ~~(10, 11, 30)~~ and the first and second panels ~~(6, 8)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 12, comprising a plurality of second crease lines ~~(19, 22, 23)~~ functioning as hinges between the end panels ~~(12, 14)~~ and the first and second panels ~~(6, 8)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A carton formed from the method of preparing a folded blank of claim 1 ~~(1) as in claim 13, characterized in that it comprises the steps of:~~ wherein:

~~bending the lateral panels (10, 11, 30) associated with the first panel (6) or the second panel~~ are folded (8) along the preferential fold line (25);

~~bending the first part (16) of the folded blank~~ is folded (1) flat over the second part (17) in such a way that the second outer portions (27) of the lateral panels (10, 11) associated with one part (16, 17) are positioned, relative to the corresponding lateral panels (10, 11) of the other part (16, 17), so that when the folded blank (1) is erected to form the packet (2), each lateral panel (10, 11) will overlap a corresponding preferential fold line (25);

~~fastening the second outer portion~~ is fastened (27) to the other part (16, 17).

15. (Currently Amended) A carton method ~~as in claim 14, wherein the overlapping step includes the step of bending the first and second parts (16, 17) of the flat diecut blank~~ are folded (3) along the fold line (5).

16. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 1, referable to a predominating

axis ~~(4)~~ disposed transversely to a predominating axis ~~(4')~~ of the flat diecut blank ~~(3)~~ and extending parallel to the fold line ~~(5)~~ of the ~~selfsame~~ blank ~~(3)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 1, referable to a predominating axis ~~(4)~~ coinciding with a predominating axis ~~(4')~~ of the flat diecut blank ~~(3)~~ and extending transversely to the fold line ~~(5)~~ of the ~~selfsame~~ blank ~~(3)~~.

18. (Currently Amended ) A folded blank as in claim 1, comprising a plurality of first crease lines ~~(20, 24)~~ functioning as hinges between the lateral panels ~~(10, 11, 30)~~ and the first and second panels ~~(6, 8)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A folded blank as in claim 1, comprising a plurality of second crease lines ~~(19, 22, 23)~~ functioning as hinges between the end panels ~~(12, 14)~~ and the first and second panels ~~(6, 8)~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A carton formed from the method of preparing a folded blank of (1) as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises comprising the steps of:~~

~~bending~~ the lateral panels ~~(10, 11, 30)~~ associated with the first panel ~~(6)~~ or the second panel are folded (8) along the preferential fold line ~~(25)~~;

~~bending~~ the first part ~~(16)~~ of the folded blank is folded (4) flat over the second part ~~(17)~~ in such a way that the second outer portions ~~(27)~~ of the lateral panels ~~(10, 11)~~ associated with one part ~~(17, 16)~~ are positioned, relative to the corresponding lateral panels ~~(10, 11)~~ of the other part ~~(16, 17)~~, so that when the folded blank ~~(1)~~ is

erected to form the packet ~~(2)~~, each lateral panel ~~(10,11)~~ will overlap a corresponding preferential fold line ~~(25)~~;

~~fastening~~ the second outer portion is fastened ~~(27)~~ to the other part ~~(16,17)~~.

21. (New) A folded blank for the manufacture of a rigid packet, obtainable from a flat diecut blank presenting a first panel and a second panel coinciding respectively with the front and the back of the packet, pairs of lateral panels hingedly attached respectively to the first and second panels and establishing the flanks of the packet, and end panels establishing the top end face and the bottom end face of the packet, wherein the flat diecut blank is bent double along at least one fold line to create a first part and a second part flattened one against the other in such a manner that the folded blank presents a collapsed configuration initially; wherein each of the lateral panels associated with one of the two parts of the blank presents a preferential fold line delimiting a first inner lateral portion and a second outer lateral portion, positioned such that the second outer portions can be bent along the preferential fold line and at least one portion of one part offered to the corresponding lateral panel of the other part so that when the folded blank is erected to form the packet, the corresponding lateral panel will overlap and cover the preferential fold line; and wherein the preferential fold line of the lateral panel coincides with the fold line of the flat blank, and the lateral panel is hinged on opposite sides of the preferential fold line to the first panel and the second panel.

22. (New) A folded blank for the manufacture of a rigid packet, obtainable from a flat

diecut blank presenting a first panel and a second panel coinciding respectively with the front and the back of the packet, pairs of lateral panels hingedly attached respectively to the first and second panels and establishing the flanks of the packet, and end panels establishing the top end face and the bottom end face of the packet, wherein the flat diecut blank is bent double along at least one fold line to create a first part and a second part flattened one against the other in such a manner that the folded blank presents a collapsed configuration initially; wherein each of the lateral panels associated with one of the two parts of the blank presents a preferential fold line delimiting a first inner lateral portion and a second outer lateral portion, positioned such that the second outer portions can be bent along the preferential fold line and at least one portion of one part offered to the corresponding lateral panel of the other part so that when the folded blank is erected to form the packet, the corresponding lateral panel will overlap and cover the preferential fold line; wherein the folded blank has a predominating axis coinciding with a predominating axis of the flat diecut blank and extending transversely to the fold line of the blank; and wherein the fold line is applied to an end panel hinged on opposite sides of the fold line to the first panel and the second panel.